

REMARKS

Claims 17-21 are pending in the application. Claims 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. For the reasons set forth below, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim 17 has been amended to require the tetraazacyclododecane macrocycle to have the specific structure illustrated in FIG. 17 of the current application. Claim 18 has been canceled.

Amendments have been made to dependent claims 20 and 21 to correct their initial dependencies. No claim amendments have introduced any new matter.

FIG. 17 provides nine species that comply with the generic language provided on pages 5-7 and original claim 17 which supports the structure incorporated in currently amended claim 17. Included in FIG 17 are nine species: AO17-79J, AO17-80D, AO17-80K, AO17-50 (A-D), AO24-16 (Q-U), AO24-16 (V-Z), AO17-79 (E-H), AO24-16 (M-P), and AO17-79D that illustrate embodiments of the macrocycle's structure.

As currently amended, claim 17 and dependent claims 19-21 comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Similarly, currently amended claim 17 and dependent claims 19-21 require the macrocycle to have a specific structure in compliance with MPEP 2163 and *Reagents of the University of California v. Eli Lilly & Co.*, 119 F.3d 1559, 1568 (Fed. Cir. 1997), *cert denied*, 523 U.S. 1089, 118 S. Ct. 1548 (1998), both earlier cited to support rejection of the previous claims.

Claims 17 and 19-21 currently stand rejected. For the reasons provided above the rejections of each of these claims, as amended, is respectfully traversed. In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 17 and 19-21 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested. Allowance of claims 17 and 19-21 at an early date is solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions about this submission or should there be other matters which might be readily resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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